

**Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examinations
Criterion-Referenced Test**

Released Item Book

Reading

Grade

4



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Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examinations—Criterion-Referenced Test
(WKCE-CRT)

Released Item Book

What are released items?

The items in this book are actual items from the fall 2005 state assessment, the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examinations—Criterion-Referenced Test (WKCE-CRT). These items will not be used again on the state assessment and may, therefore, be used in Wisconsin for professional development, improving instruction, and student practice. The items in this book illustrate the formats and kinds of items that students will encounter on the WKCE-CRT.

How do I use this book?

Professional Development

Released items are useful as educators engage in conversations about what students are expected to know and be able to do to demonstrate proficiency on the state assessments relative to the state model academic standards. Released items can inform discussions about state and local standards, curriculum, instruction, and assessment.

Improving Instruction

Teachers may use released items in classroom activities that help students understand how to:

- solve problems
- determine which answer choices are correct, which are incorrect, and why
- respond to constructed response items with complete, thoughtful answers
- approach long and/or multi-step tasks
- use good test-taking strategies.

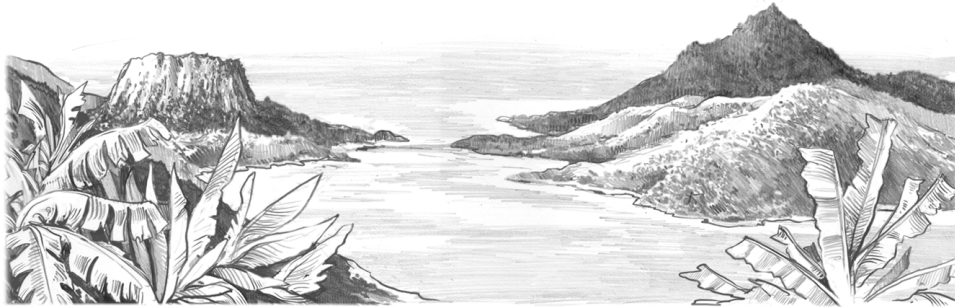
Student Practice

Students may perform better and with less anxiety if they are familiar with the format of the test and with the types of items they will be required to answer. See the accompanying guide for instructions on administering the released item book as a practice test and for the answer key. Note that a student's score on the practice test cannot be converted to a scale score, used to predict performance on the operational WKCE-CRT, or used to make inferences about the student's learning.

Directions

Read the passage "The Story of the Two Brothers." Then answer Numbers 1 through 11.

The Story of the Two Brothers



by Jane Scherer

Two large mountains face each other across Pago Pago (PANG-go PANG-go) Harbor on the island of Tutuila (too-too-EE-la) in American Samoa. They are known as the Two Brothers: Matafao (mah-tah-FAH-oo) and Pioa (pee-OH-ah), the Rainmaker. The story of how they came to be is told and retold to children throughout the islands. It contains an important message.

Long ago, a man had two sons. He loved both children dearly, as fathers will. One he called Matafao; the other, Pioa. As small boys, they fought constantly. As they grew to manhood, their fights became ever fiercer and more frequent.

Time passed. The father grew gray and old. Tired of listening to his sons fight with each other, he began to despair. He knew the time was drawing near when he would leave them. What would become of his angry children?

The day came when he called Pioa and Matafao to him. This is what he told them, "My heart is heavy inside me. It seems you cannot love each other as brothers should. In fact, you cannot be together without one of you starting a fight. The only solution I can see is to separate you forever. Therefore, from this day forward, you will live apart from each other. Pioa, you shall live in the east," he said. "Matafao, you will live in the west. Perhaps the sea will be wide enough to keep you from fighting when I could not."

"The Story of the Two Brothers" by Jane Scherer from *Faces* May 2002 issue: *Samoaans*, copyright © 2002 by Cobblestone Publishing, 30 Grove Street, Suite C, Peterborough, NH 03458. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission of Carus Publishing Company.

And then he added, “Should either of you manage to start a fight, you will be turned into stone on the spot where you stand.”

Soon, the old man died.

Although the two brothers could not seem to love each other, they both loved their father. Their grief for him was great. In fact, they found they were unable to eat. Had their sadness continued, they surely would have sickened and died, too.

With the passage of time, grief lessens. So, it was with them. The two brothers found themselves happy again. They decided to host a feast. They would roast a whole pig and many chickens. They would boil taro and bake a cake with so many tiers, it would be fine enough for the finest Samoan wedding.

Matafao and Pioa ate well at their feast. In fact, Matafao may have eaten a little too well. He decided to climb a cliff, and look over his lush green island.

At that moment, high above their heads, a seabird picked up a rock and, raising his great wings, took to the skies. When a wind sprang up, the rock slipped from his claws. Hurling down the cliff, it struck Pioa on the top of his head.

Pioa looked up. Being so quick to anger, he blamed his brother, not the seabird or the wind.

“It is your fault, Matafao!” Pioa screamed. “You threw the rock!” With that, he picked up a stone and threw it at his brother.

At those angry and unjust words, Matafao also got angry and threw some rocks. One knocked off Pioa’s top. It fell into the sea with a giant splash, and lies there to this day, a small, rocky island.

As when a volcano erupts, rocks began to fly between the brothers. Only then did they remember their father’s warning: Whoever starts another fight will be turned into stone.

Too late, they found their father’s words were true. Their lower limbs had hardened and turned to stone.

Matafao realized then that fighting with his brother was wrong. He stopped and begged his brother to stop as well. Pioa’s rage was too great and he refused and continued to fight.

“Stop, Brother. I beg you,” Matafao pleaded again. When he realized his words were ignored, he fought back.

It was at that moment that Pioa and Matafao became the mountains known as the Two Brothers. Pioa, humbled by his own wrongdoings, stands the smaller of the two. The dark cloud that hovers over his head brings rain to the islands and remains as a reminder to Samoan children to love one another.



1 This passage is mainly about

- Ⓐ making friends with others
- Ⓑ children helping their parents
- Ⓒ learning to get along together
- Ⓓ being happy with what you have

2 How much time does it take for the events in this story to occur?

- Ⓐ a few days
- Ⓑ several weeks
- Ⓒ several months
- Ⓓ many years

3 Read this sentence from the passage.

Tired of listening to his sons fight with each other, he began to despair.

In this sentence the word despair means

- Ⓐ argue
- Ⓑ complain
- Ⓒ lose hope
- Ⓓ make excuses

4 What does the father mean when he says, “My heart is heavy inside me”?

- Ⓐ He knows his sons do not love him.
- Ⓑ He knows his sons have made him ill.
- Ⓒ He is very sad that his sons are still fighting.
- Ⓓ He cannot love his sons if they keep fighting.

5 Which of these events happens right after the two brothers lose their father?

- Ⓐ They move apart.
- Ⓑ They plan a big feast.
- Ⓒ They are unable to eat.
- Ⓓ They try to love one another.

- 6** Matafao decides to climb a cliff after the feast because he wants to
- Ⓐ look over his beautiful island
 - Ⓑ watch his brother from above
 - Ⓒ find the nesting area of the seabird
 - Ⓓ get away from his brother for a while

- 7** Why is Pioa unable to stop fighting near the end of the passage?
- Ⓐ He is too angry.
 - Ⓑ He knows he was right.
 - Ⓒ His brother is winning the fight.
 - Ⓓ His brother keeps attacking him.

- 8** Why do Pioa and Matafao turn to stone?
- Ⓐ They bring shame to the island people.
 - Ⓑ They begin to fight with each other again.
 - Ⓒ They anger a seabird and it punishes them.
 - Ⓓ They eat and drink too much at a large feast.

- 9** The main mistake the brothers make is
- Ⓐ being sad for a long time
 - Ⓑ living apart from each other
 - Ⓒ eating too much at their feast
 - Ⓓ ignoring their father's warning

- 10** Why is this story most likely told to children throughout the Samoan Islands?
- Ⓐ to teach an important lesson
 - Ⓑ to explain how to prepare a feast
 - Ⓒ to warn about the behavior of seabirds
 - Ⓓ to describe how mountains sometimes form



11

What do you think would have happened if the brothers had been given another chance and had not been turned into stone? Use details and examples from the passage to carefully support your answer. Write your answer on the lines below.

Directions

Read the passage “Smokey Bear.” Then answer Numbers 12 through 21.

Smokey Bear

A National Symbol

by Jean Craighead George

The worst fire in the history of Lincoln National Forest, New Mexico, raged for weeks in 1950. When the flames were out, when the thunder and crackle of blazing trees had died down, a badly burned bear cub was found clinging to a tree. A weary firefighter snapped his picture, then rescued the hurting and bewildered cub.

The rangers named him Smokey after the familiar poster character Smokey Bear, a cartoon bear in a ranger’s hat and blue jeans holding a shovel. He had been created in 1944 by the U.S. Forest Service to publicize a campaign to prevent forest fires. Posters of the cartoon bear read “Only You Can Prevent Forest Fires!” and were tacked up in every national forest and park as well as in public buildings.



“Smokey Bear” from *Incredible Animal Adventures* by Jean Craighead George, copyright © 1994 by Jean Craighead George. Used by permission of HarperCollins Publishers.


Go On

Then the real Smokey came along. The rangers nursed him back to health and sent him to the National Zoo in Washington, D.C. Photographs of the badly burned cub, his playful recovery, and his life in Washington sent the popularity of the cartoon Smokey Bear skyrocketing.

With all the publicity, the living Smokey Bear became one of the most popular animals at the National Zoo. Thousands of visitors dropped by to see the black bear who limped on one leg and still bore scars from the fire that some careless camper or smoker had started. Smokey's misfortune became the best reason for preventing forest fires. He even made public appearances. Eventually he had his own Smokey Bear fan club. Membership was in the many thousands. Children who signed up to be Junior Forest Rangers received not only a Ranger kit but an official-looking badge and pictures of the real and the cartoon Smokeys.

In May 1975, when he was twenty-five years old (which is equal to seventy in human years), the National Zoo and the Forest Service retired Smokey in an impressive ceremony. At the same time, they introduced Smokey Junior, an orphan of another fire in Lincoln National Forest. Smokey Senior died a year later. His remains were buried at the Smokey Bear Historical Park in Lincoln National Forest, and today his message lives on: "Only You Can Prevent Forest Fires!"

12 Which of these events happened first?

- (A) A Smokey Bear fan club was started.
- (B) Smokey was retired in a special ceremony.
- (C) A cub called Smokey Junior was introduced.
- (D) The poster character of Smokey was created.

13 Which of these sentences states the main idea of the passage?

- (A) Forest rangers rescued Smokey Bear from a fire.
- (B) Smokey Bear became a popular symbol for fire safety.
- (C) Many people visited Smokey Bear at the National Zoo.
- (D) Smokey Bear was replaced by the orphan of another fire.

14 Read this sentence from the passage.

Photographs of the badly burned cub, his playful recovery, and his life in Washington sent the popularity of the cartoon Smokey Bear skyrocketing.

The author uses the phrase playful recovery to suggest that Smokey

- (A) teased other zoo animals
- (B) was friendly with visitors
- (C) had fun while getting well
- (D) needed a long time to heal

15 In the sentence above, the author uses the word skyrocketing to mean that the popularity of the cartoon bear

- (A) was clear
- (B) rose rapidly
- (C) was exciting
- (D) disappeared quickly



16 Read this sentence from the passage.

Thousands of visitors dropped by to see the black bear who limped on one leg and still bore scars from the fire that some careless camper or smoker had started.

What does the phrase dropped by mean in this sentence?

- Ⓐ came
- Ⓑ looked
- Ⓒ planned
- Ⓓ refused

17 The word careless means

- Ⓐ full of care
- Ⓑ without care
- Ⓒ in a caring way
- Ⓓ with some caring

18 Which detail supports the idea that the real Smokey Bear was very popular?

- Ⓐ Another orphan bear was rescued from a forest fire.
- Ⓑ A firefighter took a photograph of him after the fire.
- Ⓒ Smokey Bear had a large fan club while he lived at the zoo.
- Ⓓ U.S. Forest Service rangers became famous for helping bears.

19 What did children receive for becoming Junior Forest Rangers?

- Ⓐ a free ticket to visit Smokey in the National Zoo
- Ⓑ a ranger kit along with pictures and cartoons of Smokey
- Ⓒ an original poster and an action figure of the first Smokey
- Ⓓ an autographed picture of the firefighter who rescued Smokey

20 How were Smokey Senior and Smokey Junior similar?

- Ⓐ Both limped and had scars from a forest fire.
- Ⓑ Both were buried at the Smokey Bear Historical Park.
- Ⓒ Both could be seen at the National Zoo at the same time.
- Ⓓ Both were rescued from a fire in the Lincoln National Forest.

21 This passage is an example of nonfiction because it

- Ⓐ uses many descriptive words
- Ⓑ gives facts about a true story
- Ⓒ includes the names of real places
- Ⓓ has more than one main character

STOP 

Reading Grade 4 Released Item Book



Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent